

Serial No. 09/986,109
Docket No. N01300US
NIS.044

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 25-39 presently pending in the application. Claim 39 has been amended to more particularly define the invention.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-6 and 25-38 have been allowed.

Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sawasaki, et al., U.S. PG-Pub 2001/0026347. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention of claim 39 is directed to a liquid crystal display device which includes a color filter substrate; a thin film transistor substrate; a plurality of liquid crystals between the color filter substrate and the thin film transistor substrate to form a matrix including a plurality of unit pixels arranged in a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns; and a plurality of columnar spacers interposed between the color filter substrate and the thin film transistor substrate. The columnar spacers are provided in a plurality of pairs. Each pair of columnar spacers is in a pair of two unit pixels adjacent to each other in a row or a column of the matrix. Each pair of columnar spacers is spaced from all other columnar spacers by at least two pixels.

The Office Action rejected claim 39 as anticipated by Sawasaki, et al., and directed attention to Figures 47-51 of Sawasaki, et al. Those figures disclose a liquid crystal display device which includes a color filter substrate; a thin film transistor substrate; a plurality of liquid crystals between the color filter substrate and the thin film transistor substrate to form a matrix including a plurality of unit pixels arranged in a plurality of rows and a plurality of

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columns; and a plurality of columnar spacers interposed between the color filter substrate and the thin film transistor substrate. Each columnar spacer is adjacent to another columnar spacer in rows of the matrix. Thus, while each columnar spacer is spaced from all other columnar spacers in its column by at least two pixels; in rows of the matrix the columnar spacers are in adjacent pixels. Consequently, Sawasaki et al. does not show or suggest that each pair of columnar spacers be spaced from all other columnar spacers by at least two pixels, as set out in the final line of claim 39. It is accordingly urged that claim 39 distinguishes patentably from Sawasaki, et al., and is allowable, just as are claims 1-6 and 25-38.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 and 25-39, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

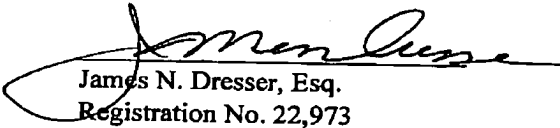
To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including

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extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account
No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

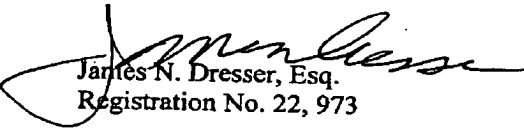
Date: October 29, 2004


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment with Examiner Ahmed N. Sefer, Group Art Unit No. 2826 within the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number 703-872-9306 on October 29, 2004.


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